

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A system for mapping captured multimedia information onto
2 emoticons for insertion into a communication using an Instant Messaging (IM) application,
3 wherein the insertion is based on multimedia information, the system comprising:
4 an information capture module for capturing the multimedia information in the
5 vicinity of a machine on which the user is using the IM application;
6 an information extraction and interpretation module communicatively coupled
7 with the information capture module, for extracting relevant information from the captured
8 multimedia information and interpreting it; and
9 a mapping module communicatively coupled with the information extraction
10 and interpretation module, for mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia information comprises
2 at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 an Application Program Interface module for the IM application,
3 communicatively coupled to the mapping module, for inserting the emoticon into the
4 communication using the IM application.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the emoticon is predefined by the IM
2 application.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the emoticon is predefined by a third-
2 party application.
- 1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the emoticon is created by the user.
- 1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the emoticon is created by the user by
2 processing captured multimedia information.
- 1 8. A method for mapping captured multimedia information onto
2 emoticons for insertion into a communication using an Instant Messaging (IM) application,
3 wherein the insertion is based on multimedia information, the method comprising:
4 receiving the captured multimedia information;
5 interpreting the captured multimedia information; and

6 mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the multimedia information comprises
2 at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.

1 10. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
2 inserting the emoticon into the communication using the IM application.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of mapping the interpreted
2 information onto an emoticon comprises:
3 selecting one emoticon out of a plurality of emoticons predefined in the IM
4 application.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of mapping the interpreted
2 information onto an emoticon comprises:
3 selecting one emoticon out of a plurality of emoticons predefined in a third-
4 party application.

1 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of mapping the interpreted
2 information onto an emoticon comprises:
3 selecting one emoticon out of a plurality of customized emoticons created by
4 the user.

1 14. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
2 determining whether a trigger has been received;
3 responsive to the trigger being received, capturing the multimedia information.

1 15. A method for creating an emoticon for a communication using an IM
2 application, based on captured multimedia information, the method comprising:
3 receiving the captured multimedia information; and
4 processing the received captured multimedia information to create an
5 emoticon.

1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
2 inserting the emoticon into the communication using the IM application.

1 17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
2 storing the emoticon for use in a later IM communication using the
3 application.

1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of processing the received
2 captured multimedia information to create an emoticon comprises:
3 reducing the size of the captured multimedia information.

1 19. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of processing the received
2 captured multimedia information to create an emoticon comprises:
3 reducing the resolution of the captured multimedia information.

1 20. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of processing the received
2 captured multimedia information to create an emoticon comprises:
3 selecting a frame from a plurality of frames of the captured multimedia
4 information.

1 21. A system for mapping captured multimedia information onto
2 emoticons for insertion into an electronic medium, wherein the insertion is based on
3 multimedia information, the system comprising:
4 an information capture module for capturing the multimedia information in the
5 vicinity of a machine in communication with the electronic medium;
6 an information extraction and interpretation module communicatively coupled
7 with the information capture module, for extracting relevant information from the captured
8 multimedia information and interpreting it; and
9 a mapping module communicatively coupled with the information extraction
10 and interpretation module, for mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the multimedia information
2 comprises at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.

1 23. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
2 an Application Program Interface module, communicatively coupled to the
3 mapping module, for inserting the emoticon into the electronic medium.

1 24. A method for mapping captured multimedia information onto
2 emoticons for insertion into an electronic medium, wherein the insertion is based on
3 multimedia information, the method comprising:

4 receiving the captured multimedia information;
5 interpreting the captured multimedia information; and
6 mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the multimedia information
2 comprises at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.

1 26. The method of claim 24, further comprising:
2 inserting the emoticon into the electronic medium.

1 27. A system for mapping captured multimedia information onto
2 emoticons for insertion into an electronic communication, wherein the insertion is based on
3 multimedia information, the system comprising:

4 an information capture module for capturing the multimedia information in the
5 vicinity of a machine the user is using for the electronic communication;

6 an information extraction and interpretation module communicatively coupled
7 with the information capture module, for extracting relevant information from the captured
8 multimedia information and interpreting it; and

9 a mapping module communicatively coupled with the information extraction
10 and interpretation module, for mapping the interpreted information onto an emoticon.

1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein the multimedia information
2 comprises at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.

1 29. The system of claim 27, further comprising:

2 an Application Program Interface module, communicatively coupled to the
3 mapping module, for inserting the emoticon into the electronic communication.